

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, and 5-8, 10-14, 16-32, and 42 are pending.

Claims 1-3, and 5-8, 10-14, 16-25, and 42 are allowed.

Issues Raised in the Outstanding Office Action

The outstanding Office Action raises three issues, discussed in turn, below:

(1) *Drawing Objections/Explanation of the Drawing Changes Made*

The drawings are objected to for alleging not including reference signs **8** and **3** not mentioned in the description.

This objection is moot in view of the above amendment to the drawings and specification.

Specifically, **3** was added to the description in the first full paragraph on page 20. Additionally, Figure 7 was amended to more clearly indicate that the dashed boxes represent what is shown in Figures 8 and 9.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

(2) *Claim Objections*

The objection of claim 1 due to a minor informality is moot in view of the above amendment.

(4) *Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 103*

There are three prior art rejections remaining as the issues precluding allowance of claims 26-32. Due to common subject matter, the three rejections will be discussed together.

Claims 26-29, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over WO 02/074217 in view of WO 99/15128.

Additionally, claims 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over WO 02/074217 in view of WO 99/15128, and further in view of Carroll, US Pat. App. Pub. No. 2001/0051481.

Finally, claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over WO 02/074217 in view of WO 99/15128 and Carroll '481, and further in view of Langley, US '697.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, in view of the above amendment, they are each believed to be moot.

The Office Action states that the above rejections are maintained because "claim 26 does not recite/claim an air purifying system in which the system filters the air as the air passed through the system outside the bag..." See the Office Action at page 6.

As can be seen in the above amendment, claim 26 was amended to clarify that the present claims disclose an air-purifying system in which the system filters the air as the air passes through the opening.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Request for Entry of Amendment

Applicants submit that this amendment presents no new issues that would require further searching or that raised new issues for the Examiner to consider. Additionally, the Amendment places all the claims in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered.

Petition for Extension of Time

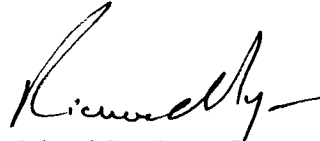
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a one-month extension of time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action. The extension fee is submitted electronically with the amendment.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this amendment to Deposit Account Number 50-2752.

From the foregoing, Applicant's respectfully submit that allowance of the application is proper, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Finally, please contact the undersigned if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard S. Myers, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard S. Myers, Jr.
Registration No. 42,022
STITES & HARBISON, PLLC
424 Church Street, Suite 1800
Nashville, TN 37219
(615) 244-5200
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT